HER MAJESTYS

LETTER

TO THE

Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*,

AND

His Graces *Letter* to the *Bishop* of his *Province*.

To the most Reverend Father in GOD, Our Right Trusty and Right Entirely Beloved Councellor Thomas Lord Arch Bishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and Metropolitan.

ANNE R.

MOST Reverend Father in GOD, Our Right Trustie, and Right Entirelie Beloved Councellor, We Greet You well, Altho from the Beginning of Our Reign, Our earnest Desire hath been to Employ the Authority given Us by Almightie GOD, in maintaining the Puritie and Power of His Holy Religion, and in Repressing all such Doctrines and Practices as are contrarie thereunto; Yet, to Our Exceeding Griefe, We have understood, not only that Looseness and Corruptions of Manners, and a Neglect of all wholesome Discipline, have of late greatlie prevailed in this Our Kingdom; But also that Uncommon Industrie hath been used by Men Averse to all Religion and Goodness; And as We have Just Ground to believe ill-affected towards Our State, in Venting and Spreading such Principles, as tend to Undermind the Christian *Faith*, to overthrow all Vertue and Order among Men, and Dissolve the Bands of Civil Government.

Wherefore, Our Will and Pleasure is, and We do by these Letters, strictlie Charge and Require You, as You will Answer to Him by whom both We and You are to be Judged, That You be Assisting to Us, in putting a Timelie Stop to the further Growth of Infidelitie and Profanenes's, and in Promoting and Encouraging Pietie among Our Subjects, by such Means as You shall Judge to be most Effectual for these Purposes, and Particularlie by Enforcing, as far as in You Lies, a due Observation of all such Ecclesiastical Laws and Canons as have been hitherto provided for the Well-Governing of the Church, and the Furtherance of Godlie Living.

To this End, We do likewise Enjoyn and Require You to Exhort the Clergie of Your Dioceſe, to Watch Diligentlie over their Flocks, to be Examplarie in their Lives, to Frame their publick Discourses to the People upon such Subjects as tend most to the Edification, and particularlie to be very Careful and Constant in Catechising those of the Younger Sort, and in preparing them as soon as they come to fit Age, for Confirmation; And the worthie Receiving of the Holy Communion: And if any of the Clergie under Your Care shall be found Negligent and Remiss in Discharging, these or any other Duties of their Sacred Callings or shall by a Disorderlie Conversation, or by any Behaviour unbecoming their Function, Lessen the Good Effects of their Ministrie; We Command that by Admonition, Censure or otherwise, as the Case shall Deserve, You Endeavour to Reform all such Neglects and Abuses, and by that Means Depress the Scandal and Mischief, which the Church of GOD might Suffer thereby.

And for as much as the Pious Instruction and Education of Children, is the surest way of Preserving and Propagating the Knowledge and Practice of True Religion, it hath been very Acceptable to Us to hear, that for Attaining these Good Ends, many Charitable Schools are now Erected throughout the Kingdom, by the Liberal Contribution of Our Good Subjects: We do therefore earnestlie Recommend it to You by all proper ways; to Encourage and Promot so Excellent a Work, and to Countenance and Assist the Persons Principallie concerned in it as they shall always be sure of Our Protection and Favour.

We

We hope, and We Expect it from You, That as often as You are Required thereunto by Law; and are not left and hindred by some Just and Reasonable Cause, You will Visit Your Diocese in Person, by which Means You will be more fully and certainlie informed of all such Matters belonging to Your Charge, as may want Your Direction and Redress, or may be fit for Our Royal Cognizance and Interposition; if need shall so Require; And We will, That at all Times, as will as at Your usual Visitations, You lay hold of all Opportunities to Confirm such as are duely Qualified.

We do moreover think proper to Recommend to You, That before the next sitting of Convocation, You would carefulie consider what Defects there are in the present Discipline of the Church, and what further Provisions may be Requisite towards Removing them; that when the Convocation Assembles, such Order and Constitutions, as are wanting may, upon due Deliberation, be prepared and laid before Us, for Our Consent: Which We shal always readily impart to, whatever We shal Judge may Conduce to the Honour of GOD the Advancement of True Religion, and the welfare of the Established Church, These being the Great Ends which We have most at Heart; and by the Promoting of which We chiefly Promise Our selves the Blessing of GOD, upon Us, and Our People.

Our will is, That Ye forthwith Transmit Copies of these Our Letters, to all the Suffragans of Our Province, And so not Doubting of Your and their Dutiful and Ready Concurrance with Us, in these Our Royal Purposes We bide You Heartily Farewel.

Given at our Castle of Windsor the 20*th Day of August* 1711, *in the Tenth Year of Our Reign,*

By Her Majesty's Command;

Dartmouthe.

The Arch-Bishops Letter to the Bishops.

To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of -----.
Dear Brother,

IN *Obedience to Her Majesty's Command, I here Transmit to you a true Copy of Her most Religious and Gracious Letter, the Orginal of which I had the Honour to Receive on the 21st. of this Instant August. This Letter contains several matters of very High importance; and such, I perswade my self, you have already at Heart: I doubt not therefore of your taking them into your Consideration, in such manner, that Her Majesty's Pious Desires may, as far as in you lyes, be brought to good Effect, I am, with great Truth,*

Dear Brother,

Your Affectionat, Friend, and Servant.

Lambeth, August, 1711.

Canterbury.

POSTSCRIPT,

Reader, having Read my Book, And Her Sacred Majesties Letter I hope thy Judgement will Jump with mine; As follows.

IF *the Tinklar had had the Honour to be Known to Her Sacred Majesty, it is not doubted but that Her Majesty would have Graciously been pleased to Give Her Orders to the Tinklar, as Overseer of the Presbyterian Ministrs in North-Britain, As She hath done to the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury Overseer of Her Bishops and Ministers in South-Britain.*